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**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 (Sub No. 708X)

September 12, 2011

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on August 23, 2011, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 3 environmental conditions.

In a letter dated August 22, 2011, the Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, Operations Division submitted a comment stating that based on the information submitted, that there would be no impacts to waters of the United States, therefore a Department of the Army Permit is not required.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following 3 environmental conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The conditions are:

1. **CSX Transportation, Inc. shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to the beginning of salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.**
2. **CSX Transportation, Inc. shall consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Regional Office prior to the commencement of salvage activities and comply with all reasonable requirements.**
3. **CSX Transportation, Inc. shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office (USFWS) prior to beginning salvage activities to discuss potential impacts to any federally listed endangered or threatened species. The railroad shall report the results of this consultation to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in writing. Should any potential impacts be identified, the railroad shall consult with OEA and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures.**

If the above 3 environmental conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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